

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCI-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TSPA:JA

SUBJ: UDMH FOR JAPANESE SPACE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 200350

1. REFTEL HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE INCORRECT. THE 17,700 POUNDS OF UDMH REFERRED TO IN THE OSD RELEASE AND REFTEL WAS INTENDED TO FULFILL A PREVIOUS REQUIREMENT TO PERFORM ROCKETDYNE TESTING FOR THE PROGRAM AND NOT TO FULFILL JAPANESE LAUNCH REQUIREMENTS. MESSAGES RELEASED BY OSD WERE MISUNDERSTOOD. PARTIALLY DUE TO KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSONNEL BEING ON LEAVE AND PARTIALLY DUE TO CHANGEOVER OF PROJECT OFFICERS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT, THE ERROR WAS NOT CAUGHT SOONER.

2. FURTHERMORE, SINCE THE ROCKETDYNE PROJECT DID NOT TAKE THE UDMH IN SEPTEMBER AND THERE IS SOME CONFUSION ABOUT WHEN THEY ACTUALLY NEED IT, THE 17,700 POUNDS IS BEING RE-CONSIDERED IN A REALLOCATION PRESENTLY UNDERWAY. WE ARE WORKING WITH OSD TO GET THE SITUATION CLARIFIED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. WE ARE ALSO WORKING TO TRY TO OBTAIN A COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY FUEL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE JAPANESE

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PROGRAM ALSO BUT THE SITUATION IS VERY TIGHT AND SEVERE IMPACTS ARE ALSO BEING FELT IN DOD AND NASA PROGRAMS.

3. IT IS NOT FELT WISE TO DELAY INFORMING THE JAPANESE VERY LONG AND DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO INFORM MR. UCHIDA ON SEPT 26 TO ALLOW TIME FOR ANY EMBASSY ACTION YOU MAY DESIRE.

4. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR TO THE JAPANESE THAT IS IS NOT A CHANGE OF POSITION OF THE US ON SUPPORTING THEIR FUEL REQUIREMENTS BUT THE CORRECTION OF A MISTAKE. KISSINGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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